

REMARKS

Claims 1-7, 19, 20, 22-27, 29 and 30 are pending in this application. By this Amendment, claim 1 is amended and claims 8-11 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer.

Entry of the amendments is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the amendments: (1) place the application in condition for allowance for the reasons set forth below; (2) do not raise any new issues requiring further search and/or consideration; and/or (3) place the application in better form for an appeal should an appeal be necessary. More specifically, the above amendments merely incorporate add the allowable features of dependent claim 8 into independent claim 1. Thus, no new issues are raised. Entry is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116.

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Office Action's (and the Advisory Action) indication that claims 19-20, 22-27, 29 and 30 are allowed and that claims 8-11 contain allowable subject matter. By this Amendment, allowable features of dependent claim 8 are incorporated into independent claim 1. Thus, independent claim 1 defines patentable subject matter. Claims 2-7 depend from claim 1 and therefore define patentable subject matter at least for this additional reason.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Favorable consideration and prompt allowance of claims 1-7, 19, 20, 22-27, 29 and 30 are earnestly solicited. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney at the telephone number listed below.

Serial No. **09/978,550**

Docket No. **HI-0046**

Reply to Office Action dated May 17, 2006

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this, concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,
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